

PRESS RELEASE

Montana State Prison, 500 Conley Lake Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 406-846-1320 ☎ Fax: 406-846-2950

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Contact: Linda J. Moodry, Public Information Officer

Phone: 406-846-1320, extension 2201/2339

Fax: 406-846-2950

Prison officer cleared to return to work

The Montana State Prison correctional officer involved in an incident May 11 outside the prison is cleared to return to work following an administrative review that concluded his actions were appropriate and consistent with the Department of Corrections policy on use of force, Warden Mike Mahoney said Tuesday.

Officer Nick Carter, who fired his sidearm after a motorist twice rammed Carter's patrol vehicle, will return to work as soon as he is medically cleared to do so by his doctor, Mahoney said. "This is just a precautionary measure to make sure his knee is OK."

Carter, 48, sustained a knee injury when he was struck by the car believed to be driven by Ron Violette.

Violette, who lives in nearby Opportunity, drove his vehicle onto an area of prison property where he did not have permission to be. When confronted by Carter, who was assigned to patrol of the outer prison perimeter, Violette allegedly used his car to ram Carter's truck and pin Carter between the vehicles.

Violette, 47, has since been charged with attempted deliberate homicide, two counts of felony criminal endangerment, felony criminal mischief and misdemeanor criminal trespass. He is jailed in Deer Lodge on \$100,000 bail and scheduled to be arraigned May 25 in Powell County.

"We are very pleased with Officer Carter's response to this incident and we commend him for his decisive response to this imminent threat to our perimeter security system," Mahoney said.

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